ployers; what action was taken by the police on FIR?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) to (c) According to available information, RPFC, UP has filed complaints under section 406/409 IPC with the police authorities. He has also issued show cause notices for prosecution under section 14 of the EPF Act. Meanwhile, the management is reported to have started depositing the dues gradually.

Pension Scheme for Journalists

477. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made so far by the experts group set up by the Government to draw up a scheme for pension for Journalists, how many meetings the Group held so far; and

(b) whether the working group is likely to submit its report by the end of March; what steps Govt. are taking to ensure that report is submitted within this period, what are the reasons for delay so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) The Working Group had three meetings so far.

(b) The Chairman of the Working Group was earlier requested to expedite the work of the Group and to arrange for submission of its report by February, 1989. However, the Group is likely to take some more time to finalise its report.

Starvation Deaths in Bolangir Region of Orissa

478. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in 'the Hindustan Times' of the 4th February, 1989 to the effect that several deaths have taken place due to hunger in the drought-striken Bolangir region of Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been mass exodus from Bolangir as a result thereof; and

(d) what steps have been taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) According to the Government of Orissa there has been no death due to hunger in the Bolangir district of the State.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Government of Orissa have taken up labour intensive works and emergency feeding programmes in areas including the Bolangir distinct where crop failure has been reported during the 1988 South-West Monsoon.

Silica Sand at Faridabad

479. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mining concessions for extraction of silica sand in Faridabad district was awarded to a Government agency in April, 1985;

(b) whether Government are aware that this concession has been trans-

ferred to a private firm without reference to the Government;

(c) whether Hindustan Minerals Ltd. (Haryana State Government Agency) requested the Union Government for the lease of concession at Aangpur and Pali of Haryana; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for rejecting the application of the Hindustan Minerals Ltd. to State Government agency?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) to (d) Information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Provident Fund Arrears

480. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Provident Fund arrears have considerably increased during the past few years.

(b) if so, what are the details of the arrears of provident fund since 1986 till December, 1988;

(c) whether any action has been taken against defaulting employers;

(d) what are the names of employers against whom legal proceedings have been taken to recover the provident fund dues; and

(e) the names of these defaulting employers who have been convicted during 1988?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. The absolute amount of arrears have somewhat increased.

(b) The details of arrears are as given below:—

	As on 31st March	Amount of arrears (Rs. in crores)
Unexempted Establishments . . .	1986	58.30
	1987	71.97
	1988	78.74
Exempted Establishments . . .	1986	84.24
	1987	98.51
	1988	111.43

(c) and (d) During the year 1987-88, the following action was taken:—

(i) 20,183 revenue recovery certificates were issued under Section 8 of the EPF Act.

(ii) 12,515 prosecutions were filed under section 14 of the EPF Act.

(iii) 865 complaints were filed with the police authorities under Section 406/409 of the Indian Penal Code for non-payment of employees share of contributions deducted from the wages of the employees.

(iv) Damages under Section 14 B of the EPF Act were levied in over 13,000 cases.

(e) During the year 1987-88, 4,289 prosecution cases had resulted in conviction of the accused. The information egarding the names of the convicted employers is maintained regionally in the offices of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, and not centrally.